

To: Renewable Advisory Board

From: Janice McClanaghan,
Energy Office

Date: March 3, 2005

Subject: Update

The following is the March 2005, monthly update for the Renewable Energy Fund:

Supply Programs

Wind

- 1) URI – Students are working with URI to get anemometers installed on a radio tower. A meeting is being scheduled to discuss the economics of the project with the facilities staff in anticipation of a performance contractor being selected in the coming months.
- 2) Portsmouth Abbey Wind – The Abbey has received final approval from its Board of Regents and will request final approval by the monks at the Abbey. These two steps constitute the final required internal approvals. Preparations are being made to request a place on the March 2005, agenda for the Town of Portsmouth zoning review board. The Abbey is working with a vendor on a proposal for the construction of the wind turbine project. Order times run about 6 months, so a mid-winter (2005-2006) construction date is anticipated assuming the zoning approval process takes about 90 days.
- 3) Roger Williams University Wind Center – Update is attached.
- 4) Avian Issues – An Update on the Bat Study for which the Fund provided a \$5000 grant will be provided after the AWEA Wind Siting Workshop March 9 in Boston.

Wave

- 5) Energetech – Point Judith – A Declaration of Intention has been drafted asking FERC to either 1) not assert jurisdiction for the Point Judith demonstration project or 2) if FERC must assert jurisdiction, grant the FERC license based on the findings of the CRMC and other agencies such as the Army Corp and RIDEM. Also, the developer has re-evaluated its plan to build a new demonstration unit for Point Judith and will make a revised proposal to the state funds to move the unit now placed at Port Kembla, Australia, to the Point Judith location.

PV

- 6) Solar on Schools – Entech Engineering update attached.
- 7) PV RFP – No update. The PV RFP has not been re-issued due to the strategic planning process being in progress.
- 8) Low Income Programs – No update.

Hydro

- 9) Royal Mills Hydro – No Update.

- 10) Rentricity – Consultants are working with Rentricity on the terms of a RECs transaction tied to the repayable grant.

Biomass

- 11) Nova Plasma Arc – Nova is coordinating a visit to Startech's operating facility in Bristol, CT for March 10th. Nova is extending an invitation Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund. The Bristol facility houses a 5-ton/day Startech Plasma Arc Converter along with a gas polishing system. There is also a working prototype of the Starcell equipment which separates the hydrogen from the rest of the gases. If you are interested in attending, please let us know as soon as possible.

Customer Demand Programs

- 12) Renewable Energy Customer Aggregation (RECA) RFP and Proposal to Large Customer Program – The RECA group has been sent a letter documenting the Fund's commitment. RECA members have agreed to approach their respective management for final approval of a wind energy product. RECA has been approached by another vendor offering a renewable energy product derived from a small existing power plant in Rhode Island. RECA members have requested a formal proposal from the vendor. RECA should receive the proposal in the next two weeks. Once the proposal is received, members will evaluate the possibilities of engaging in this purchase in addition to the wind energy product currently under consideration.
- 13) State House Green Power Purchase – The RFP has been posted and questions have been received and answers posted. Proposals are due April 8.
- 14) GreenUp – As of the end of February, 2005, there have been a total of 1570 GreenUp signups, up from 1518 at the end of January, 2005. The Board approved paying one-half of the ballot cost in April, or \$16,500. This is in lieu of a commitment to contribute \$11,000 to the funding of the October ballot. This means that as of now, the Fund has no commitment to fund the October ballot. The final vote count was 11 in favor, 2 against and 2 not voting.

Outreach Programs

- 15) Smartpower – Update is attached.
- 16) Audubon – Update is attached.
- 17) Apeiron - The Apeiron Institute for Environmental Living is requesting \$2,379 to host a Teacher Training in March, half of which directly deals with teaching about Renewable Energy.

Administration

- 18) Strategic Plan – The agenda for the Strategic Planning session of the March 8, 2005 meeting is attached, as are minutes from the last Strategic Planning meeting.

RES Support

19) Offshore Wind Energy Collaborative (OWEC) – Bob Grace attended a workshop (http://www.masstech.org/renewableenergy/owec/2_05_workshop.htm) in D.C. Feb 10-11, in part representing the Fund. The purpose of the workshop, organized by MTC, DOE and GE Wind, was to:

- a) Discuss the full range of issues and opportunities associated with the development of offshore wind resources, particularly far offshore in deep water off the Northeast coast;
- b) Develop strategic approaches to address issues and maximize benefits.

The next step is for the OWEC organizers to develop a draft strategic plan based on stakeholder input at the workshop. It will then be distributed broadly for comment. Greg Watson, who is organizing the OWEC for MTC, has indicated his willingness to come to RI to make a presentation to the Fund on OWEC.

20) RES Rulemaking Support – The Fund has been asked to provide support for hiring a facilitator for the RES Rulemaking effort. A proposal will be discussed at the March 8, 2005 meeting.